Membership Opportunities

The Western Pennsylvania Model Railroad Museum can trace its roots back to the Pittsburgh Model Railroad Club founded in 1938.Our mission and purpose is to replicate and preserve an accurate scale representation of the history of railroading in Western Pennsylvania. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that is always accepting applications for new members age 18 or older.

Prior experience in model railroading, while always welcomed, is not a requirement. If you are interested in learning new model railroading skills, you will find opportunities to do so with us. However, operating a successful museum requires many diverse talents and skills. The only true requirement is a love of trains and dedication to preserving history.

Typically, members will meet throughout the week to work on various museum projects. Members are also expected to volunteer during our annual Holiday Show.

Additionally, non-active memberships are available for individuals and families who would like to support the museum with their membership.

Membership applications are available in the gift shop, or on our website: **membership.wpmrm.org**

For further information about membership, please visit our website: **wpmrm.org**

Donations

We are glad to accept trains, buildings, books or magazines that are railroad related. The items should be in good condition. While we do not pay for these items, we do provide a form that can be used for a tax deduction.

Annual Holiday Train Display

A RAILROAD JOURNEY IN *MINIATURE*

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM

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Twitter: **@wpmrm_org**	Instagram: **@wpmrm**

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Welcome!

We hope you enjoy your visit with us here today. On the upper level of our building, we are creating " A Railroad Journey in Miniature". We have chosen to view history through the lens of model railroading. This has been done in an effort to represent the railroad industry in and around Western Pennsylvania in an enjoyable, information and entertaining way that can be appreciated by children as well as adults. Our magnifying glass on the past is called the " Mon- Valley System" (MV). The MV Railroad is not a bland, generic, "one size fits all" HO train layout. It is a historically authentic composite of real Pittsburgh area railroads.... a vivid reflection of the railroad transportation industry during the golden years of Pittsburgh's Renaissance I.
As you face the layout, you are always facing north. As you leave Pittsburgh, you will see the "old Smithfield Street Station", the J&L Steel Mill, and then enter Glenwood Yard. McKeesport, Connellsville, Rockwood, and Myersdale are just a few of the cities you will see before going up over the Allegheny Mountains, around Helmstetter's curve and through the Narrows to finally arrive at Cumberland, Maryland.

As you travel around the layout observe the wide variety of trains and railroad equipment. All of the tunnels, bridges and structures are a miniature interpretive of the original.

Years of diligent work by our volunteers have brought us to what you see today. So hop aboard the next train and take a ride to Cumberland, Maryland, the " Queen City of the Alleghenies"

Common Questions

What happens to the display at the end of the Show?
While most home layouts are put away after the holidays, our layout is permanent. During the off season, we are always in a state of building something new, repairing or replacing items on the layout.

Why were the early 1950's chosen to model?
First, because of the post war economic boom, railroads were at their busiest, transporting large numbers of freight, coal and passengers. Secondly, Pittsburgh's steel mills and coal mines were at their peak of production. Finally, diesel locomotives were quickly replacing steam locomotives and it allows us to run both on our layout.

How historically accurate is our layout?
It is as close to accurate as possible. However, we do need to use two modeling techniques: *'Selective Compression'* and *" Freelance Reality'*. To conserve space, Selective Compression allows us to model important landmarks and shrink them into a smaller area. Freelance Reality allows us to adjust history for our own convenience. For example, we may run a double track, where there was only a single track. This helps us show the total greater Pittsburgh railroads and how they impacted both the industries they served, as well as the people.

How do you control so many trains at one time?
All of our trains are equipped with DCC (Digital Command Control) and run by a computer located across from Helmstetter's Curve. We use a system that is very similar to what the railroads use. Trains move at speeds based upon the freight they haul. As they get too close to other trains, they will slow, stop or start moving based upon the signals on the tracks.

32nd Annual Holiday Train Show Scavenger Hunt

Look for these items on the layout, on the corresponding pink square.

1. Woman on a Bicycle
2. Royal Crown Cola Sign
3. Demmler Bros. Co. Building
4. White House with Blue Shutters
5. Red Pickup Truck
6. Two People sitting on a Bench
7. Boy Scout Troop Spelunking
8. ICE Truck
9. Wooden Soap Box Cart
10. Supreme Auto Oil Sign
11. Minister
12. Blue Phone Booth
13. Gray Wheelbarrow
14. B & O Boxcar #267088
15. Man Cutting Wood
16. Set of Tell-Tales
17. Woman Hanging out Laundry
18. Red Farm Tractor
19. Gray Hopper Car
20. Five Sun Bathers
21. Gulf Gas Station Sign
22. A Good-bye Kiss
23. Two Men carrying a Track Rail

Model Railroading Classes

The WPMRM will offer five model railroading classes

- **#101 Introduction to Model Railroading**
  (10 classes in 5 1/2 weeks)
  Thursday, January 23rd, 2020 7:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
- **#203 A Guide to DCC for Model Railroading**
  Saturday, February 15th, 2020 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
- **#253 A Guide to Painting and Weathering for Model Railroading**
  Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
- **#422 An Advanced Scenery Guide for Model Railroading** (2 classes)
  Saturday, February 1st, 2020 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. &
  Saturday, February 8th, 2020 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
- **#150 Boy Scout Merit Badge for Model Railroading**
  (2 different Saturdays)
  Saturday, February 29th, 2020 9:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. ***or***
  Saturday, March 7th, 2020 9:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Information and applications for all of the classes can be found in the gift shop or online at **classes.wpmrm.org**

All classes will held at the museum.

Stay connected all year

Even though we are only open during the Holiday season, you can stay connected with the museum all year round!

Twitter:	**@wpmrm_org**
Facebook:	**facebook.com/wpmrm**
Instagram:	**instagram.com/wpmrm**
YouTube:	**youtube.com/wpmrm**

We want to hear about your visit to our museum. Share your visit and use the hashtag:

#JourneyingInMiniature

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